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FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 11221 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, UK, PO, CSCE, EEC

SUBJECT: WILSON-BREZHNEV HELSINKI BILATERAL ON PORTUGAL, CSCE

1. AT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING AUGUST 7, UK AMBASSADOR GARVEY REPORTED ON BREZHNEV-WILSON BILATERAL AT HELSINKI AUGUST 1, WHICH WAS BRIEF (HALF-HOUR) AND CONCENTRATED ON PORTUGAL AND CSCE.

2. WILSON EVIDENTLY PUSHED BREZHNEV RATHER HARD ON PORTUGAL. WILSON REPORTEDLY URGED THAT BREZHNEV USE ALL HIS INFLUENCE TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE" (THOUGH THE REFERENCE TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WAS LEFT IMPLICIT). BREZHNEV REPLIED THAT PORTUGAL WAS AN INDEPENDENT STATE; THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT FURNISHING ARMS; BUT THAT THE SITUATION IS COMPLICATED. AT THIS POINT GROMYKO
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INTERJECTED THAT THESE ARE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL.

BREZHNEV CONTINUED THAT MANY OTHERS (BESIDES WILSON) HAD APPROACHED HIM ABOUT PORTUGAL AT HELSINKI, AND THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD "THINK IT OVER AFTER THEIR RETURN TO MOSCOW AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE."

3. ON CSCE, GARVEY REPORTED BREZHNEV HAD TAKEN THE LINE THAT IT WAS ONLY A BEGINNING, THAT NOT ALL PROBLEMS HAD BEEN SOLVED, BUT THAT THE FINAL ACT WAS A "STRONG POLITICAL AND MORAL DOCUMENT." IN HIS SPEECH, BREZHNEV HAD SAID, HE HAD SPELLED OUT THE BASIS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERING SOCIAL SYSTEMS, AND HE HOPED THAT THE "SOVIET-BRITISH PROBLEMS WHICH HAD ACCUMULATED" COULD NOW BE RESOLVED AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE. SPECIFICALLY, HE HOPED THAT "EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND HUMAN CONTACTS" COULD BE ON A DIFFERENT BASIS, AND SAID THAT SOVIET PROPAGANDA WOULD BE DIRECTED TO THIS END." BRITISH WERE SKEPTICAL THAT THIS WAS A STATEMENT OF REAL INTENTIONS, AS WELL AS UNCERTAIN OF ITS PRACTICAL IMPORT, BUT PASSED ON INFORMATION FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH.
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